This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method with regard to a user performing a search at a search engine by way of a search mechanism ~~for gathering context based user feedback for a search mechanism, where said search mechanism is adapted to perform a search in response to user inputs and where at least one user has access to said search mechanism~~, said method comprising:

monitoring ~~of said~~ the search mechanism for user behavior data regarding ~~an interaction of one of said at least one users with said search mechanism to perform a search~~ interactions between the user and the search mechanism during performance of the search thereat, the user behavior data comprising data concerning a plurality of events, each event corresponding to an action of the user at the search mechanism during the search;

monitoring said search mechanism for ~~search mechanism~~ response data regarding said search, the response data comprising a results list;

determining context data describing said search, the context data being derived from the user behavior data and from the response data and representing an overall context of the search; and

determining user feedback data describing said search, the user feedback data including implicit user feedback derived from the user behavior data and explicit user feedback derived from at least one question to the user regarding the search and the response to the question; and

performing a context-dependent evaluation of the results of the search engine based at least in part on the determined context data and the determined user feedback data.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where said search mechanism is a web browser ~~and where said user behavior data comprises data concerning the firing of one or more events, where each of said events is fired when a corresponding user behavior occurs~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, where ~~said corresponding user behavior is selected from the group comprising:~~ each action of the user at the search mechanism is selected from among entering a search query; said user navigation to a new page using a hyperlink; said user navigation to a new page using a history list; said user navigation to a new page using an address bar; said user navigation to a new page using a favorites list; user scrolling behavior; user document printing behavior; said user adding a document to said favorites list; said user switching focus to a different application; said user switching focus back from a different application; and said user closing a window.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 where said method further comprises:

tracking, using a state machine comprising at least two states describing progress through said search, which of said states said search is in.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, where said context data describing said search comprises state data regarding which of said states were tracked during said search.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 where at least one transition between said states in said state machines is at least partially dependent on explicit user feedback.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 where said context data describing said search comprises said explicit user feedback.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 where said context data describing said search comprises user behavior data.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 where said user feedback data comprises explicit user feedback.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 where said user feedback data comprises implicit user feedback based on said user behavior data.

12. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to perform the method of claim 1.

13-25 (Canceled)

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the search comprises a number of queries from the user to the search engine, each query being followed by a response from the search engine, the method comprising determining context data that describes each query of the search, including timing and how the user reacted to the corresponding response, and performing the context-dependent evaluation of the results of the search engine based on such context data that allows corresponding user feedback data to be analyzed according to that which lead to the feedback.

27. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising determining user feedback data that describes the search, the user feedback data including implicit user feedback derived from user behavior including browsing, scrolling, and clicking behavior.

28. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising determining user feedback data that describes the search, the user feedback data including implicit user feedback including:

user behavior while visiting a result list page, including time spent thereat;

user behavior while exploring a hyperlink on the result list page, including time spent thereat;

user behavior while visiting a result item page, including the time spent thereat; and

user behavior relating to the user ignoring a result item of a result list.

29. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising determining user feedback data that describes the search, the user feedback data including explicit user feedback by way of a dialog box opened at the search mechanism of the user.